

## STUDENTS TURN RECYCABLES INTO ART

When you toss those plastic bottles, tin cans, papers and other recyclable items in the blue bin, did you ever think they might make great art pieces? The students of Victorville did, and once again we are pleased to showcase their art in City Hall.

As part of the City of Victorville's annual *Victorville Recycles Week*, local students from grades K-12 had the opportunity to show off their knowledge of recycling in a variety of creative ways, while competing for cash prizes.

Some students created sculptures entirely from recycled materials. We have about 60 sculptures currently on display in City Hall.

Other students drew posters with the "Recycling in Victorville" theme. This year, students were also invited to submit photos of recycling at work, or produce a YouTube video as part of a group project.

The *Recycles Week* program also offered opportunities for schools to earn points toward cash prizes, with the total point winner receiving \$1000 and the "traveling trophy," currently held by Morgan Kincaid Preparatory School.

Point values are assigned to each activity, which can include an in-class recycling presentation, a recy-

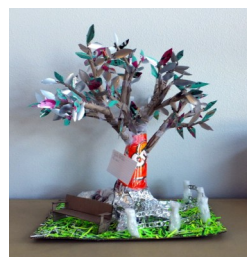
cling assembly, or a tour of the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). They can form a team to participate in the Victorville Community Cleanup Day, attend the Shred-Fest, create a campus recycling plan incorporating blue recycle containers, or compete in the "CRV" Bottle & Can Drive and Newspaper Collection Contest. Schools can also sign up to compete in the National Recycle-Bowl Competition and/or the USAgain America Recycles Day Textile Recycling Challenge.

Since the program began in 2007, approximately 520 sculptures and 7,600 posters have been submitted. Schools have held 373 in-class presentations reaching 14,000 students, 63 assemblies reaching 17,000, and 77 tours of the MRF involving more than 4,600 students. The collection drives have brought in more than 3,300 lbs. of CRV materials and 8,000 lbs. of newspapers.

Winners will be announced during the second Victorville City Council meeting in January 2015. Afterwards, we will share that information, along with photos of the winning projects.

Recycles Week is sponsored by the City of Victorville Recycling Program and Burrtec Waste Industries.

### Just a few sculpture samples . .



## HOLIDAY RECYCLING and GREEN TIPS

### Shopping Bags

Remember to take those reusable shopping bags with you. This will greatly reduce the number of plastic bags that get trashed and minimize the amount of petroleum used to make them. They make great stocking stuffers too!

### Holiday Cards

When picking out your holiday cards, choose recycled-content cards and envelopes. After the holidays, be sure to recycle the ones you received. Or, if you are feeling crafty, you can turn them into small boxes to use next year (the Internet is full of sites with easy instructions).

### Wrapping Paper—Ribbons—Bows

If you use traditional gift wrap, avoid wrapping materials that are not recyclable or reusable, such as foil, plastic or metallic papers. Look for recycled-content wrapping paper. Keep in mind that ribbons and bows, while not recyclable, are reusable.

### Decorations

Many of us reuse our decorations each year. If, however, your plan is to replace them, consider giving them to, or trading them with, a friend or family member, or donating them to a local thrift store for resale.

### Shipping

When shipping a gift, use the foam peanuts from another package if possible, or better yet, use air-popped popcorn for packing. Return unwanted Styrofoam packing peanuts to a local UPS store. And remember to ship early and save on holiday stress.

### Lights

You can drop off any broken or frayed strips of lights at the Victorville Recycle Center at 15164 Anacapa Rd. (south of Palmdale between Amargosa and Borego).

## Have Yourself A Merry Little Stormwater Savvy Holiday

Even though you might be busy rockin' around the Joshua Tree, it is important to deck the halls in a stormwater pollution-free way. Keeping our watershed healthy and being stormwater savvy is all about making smart choices, even during the craziness of the holidays.

Stormwater pollution, resulting from polluted runoff, is a serious issue and is the single biggest environmental threat to the quality of our High Desert rivers, lakes and other local waterways. The good news is that it is preventable, even during your end of the year festivities.

Here are some tips from the Mojave River Watershed Group (MRWG) to focus on this holiday season:

- When shopping for the big holiday feast, remember to take reusable grocery bags along and avoid using the plastic bags that often pollute our desert.
- It's what's on the inside that counts! Consider using newspaper or recycled wrapping paper for presents.
- Faux snow can really make for beautiful décor but avoid leaving it behind on the lawn or in the storm drain as you haul the tree across the lawn.
- The holidays are about being merry and bright, as in bright holiday lights! Be careful with staples and plastic pieces you might use to hold lights in place. Objects like these can easily end up in the storm drain.
- Traveling to see family this season? Make sure your car oil has been changed and your fluids are maintained to prevent chemical leaks that could run off into storm drains.

To learn more about stormwater pollution and the Mojave River Watershed Group, visit their website at [www.mojaveriver.org](http://www.mojaveriver.org). Happy Holidays!

*Article contributed by the Mojave River Watershed Group*



### City of Victorville Tree Lighting

December 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Lighting ceremony at 7:30 p.m.  
Victorville City Hall—14343 Civic Dr.



*Photo: David Pardo, Daily Press 2013*

### Around the Neighborhood . . .

#### City of Hesperia Tree Lighting

December 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Hesperia Civic Plaza Park  
15833 Smoke Tree St., Hesperia

#### Town of Apple Tree Lighting

December 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Civic Center Park & Town Hall  
14955 Dale Evans Pkwy, Apple Valley

### Victorville Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 6 at 10 a.m. The parade route starts at 7th and La Paz and ends at Mojave Drive. Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Victorville, and supported by City of Victorville and Victor Valley Global Medical Center.

### Visit with Santa

December 17 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Victorville Activities Center  
15075 Hesperia Rd., Victorville  
For information call 760-245-4222

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Holly Cherry

*Prunus ilicifolia*

- Plant: Evergreen Shrub/Small Tree
- Water Use: Very Low
- Mature Size: 7-18' tall & 10' wide
- Exposure: Full sun, part shade
- Bloom Time: Spring (March-May)
- Native to: Western California south to Baja (below 5,000 feet)
- Hardiness: Cold hardy to 0°F



Hollyleaf Cherry is a tightly-branched, long-lived, evergreen shrub with lush, deep green, glossy leaves that have an almond-like scent when crushed. White flower clusters in spring produce dark red cherries in summer that are a favorite of songbirds. This easy-to-grow plant can be trained into an attractive tree or sculpted into a variety of shaped and uses. Hollyleaf Cherry is ideal for screens, hedges, windbreaks, firebreaks, for erosion control on slopes, or as a specimen plant. While slow-growing the first few years, it reaches moderate to rapid growth after established. Although this cherry relative bears its flowers in spring and fruit in summer, we couldn't resist featuring this beautiful shrub in winter, as its holly-like foliage is a favorite for Christmas wreaths and holiday decorations.

## The Green Scene

This newsletter is produced by the Environmental Programs Division of the Community Services Department, City of Victorville. For more information contact:

Recycling at 760-955-8615 and/or  
Water Conservation at 866-955-4426

[VictorvilleRecycles.com](http://VictorvilleRecycles.com)

[VictorvilleWater.com](http://VictorvilleWater.com)

City of Victorville

<http://victorvilleca.gov>